IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance Company, (formerly Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company) a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard, 700 Quaker Lane Warwick, RI 02886

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs,

v.

Apple, Inc. One Apple Parkway Cupertino, CA 95014

Defendant.

TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendant Apple Inc., i/s/h/a Apple, Inc. ("Apple"), by and through its attorneys, hereby removes the above-captioned action, pending as Case ID 211200220 in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Civil Trial Division, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In support of removal, Apple states as follows:

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On or about December 7, 2021, Plaintiffs, then Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company, filed a Praecipe for a Writ of Summons captioned Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company, 700 Quaker Lane Warwick, RI 02886 v. Apple, Inc., in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Civil Trial

Division. The matter was assigned the Case ID 211200220. The Writ contained no substantive information other than the name of the insurance company.

- 2. On March 18, 2022, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint captioned Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance Company (formerly Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company), a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard, 700 Quaker Lane Warwick, RI 02886 v. Apple, Inc., One Apple Parkway Cupertino, CA 95014. *See* Ex. A (Complaint).
- 3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1), the Complaint is "the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based."
- 4. Copies of all process, pleadings, and other orders that have been filed or served upon Apple to date are attached hereto as Exhibit A pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a). These documents include: (1) the Writ of Summons, (2) the Civil Cover Sheet (3) the Notice to Defend (4) the Affidavit of Service for the Writ, (5) the Complaint and (6) the Case Management Memos.
- 5. The Complaint alleges that "a fire erupted" at "the subject property...as a direct result of an event internal to the electrical/battery system" or "one or more defects and/or malfunction [sic]" in an iPad on December 9, 2021 [sic]. *See* Ex. A (Complaint).
 - 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, et seq.
- 7. The Complaint was not formally served on Apple in light of the Writ of Summons and Apple is filing this Notice of Removal within thirty days of the filing of the Complaint in the Court of Common Pleas action. *See* 28 U.S.C. §1446(b)(1).
- 8. One year has not expired since the commencement of the Court of Common Pleas action.

- 9. Venue is proper in this Court as the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, where the Court of Common Pleas action was originally filed, is within the Eastern District. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 118(a), 1446(a).
- 10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Apple is serving a copy of this Notice of Removal on all parties through their counsel of record. Notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and served on all parties to the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania action. *See* Ex. B (Apple's Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal).

DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP

- 11. The diversity of citizenship requirement under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) is met.
- 12. Although the address of the "subject property" for this subrogation matter referenced in Plaintiffs' Complaint is not included the Complaint, upon information and belief based on correspondence from then-Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Christopher and Gretchen Howard are residents of Pennsylvania, with an address of 6802 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. *See* Ex. C (January 6, 2020 Notice Letter). As such, upon information and belief, Plaintiffs are citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 13. Apple is now, and was at the time of commencement of the Court of Common Pleas action, an entity incorporated under the laws of California with its principal place of business in the State of California. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Accordingly, Apple is a citizen of the State of California.
- 14. As the parties are citizens of different states, diversity of citizenship exists under28 U.S.C. § 1332.

15. Apple is the only named defendant in the Court of Common Pleas action.

Therefore, all defendants appearing in the action consent to removal as required under 28 U.S.C.

§ 1446(b)(2)(A) and the forum-defendant rule (28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2)) does not prevent removal

of this action.

AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY

16. The amount in controversy requirement under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) is also met.

17. As set forth in Plaintiffs' Case Management Memo, Plaintiffs allege \$354,588.93

in damages. 1 See Ex. A (Plaintiffs' Case Management Memo).

18. Accordingly, the action is removable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

19. Apple reserves the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal and to

assert any and all defenses and objections.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Apple Inc. effects the removal of the action in Court of

Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Civil Trial

Division, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 7, 2022

LAVIN, CEDRONE GRAVER, BOYD & DISIPIO

Basil A. DiSipio, Esquire

Paies A. D. Sejio

Attorneys for Defendant Apple, Inc.

190 North Independence Mall West

6th & Race Streets, Suite 500

Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 627-0303 (phone) / (215) 627-2551 (fax)

bdisipio@lavin-law.com (e-mail)

¹ Apple does not concede or admit in any manner that the claim for damages in any amount by Plaintiffs has legal or factual merit, and reserves all rights and defenses as to such claims.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance Company, (formerly Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company), a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard Plaintiff,

Case No.

VS.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Apple, Inc.

Defendant.

I hereby certify that on April 7, 2022, I caused the Notice of Removal for Defendant Apple, Inc. to be served upon the following recipients:

Richard A. Estacio, Esquire 848 E. Main Street, Suite 800 Ephrata, PA 17522 (610) 492-7343 restacio@kcalegal.com Attorney for Plaintiffs

LAVIN, CEDRONE GRAVER, BOYD & DISIPIO

Basil A. DiSipio, Esquire

Baies A. D. Syjo

Attorneys for Defendant Apple, Inc. 190 North Independence Mall West 6th & Race Streets, Suite 500 Philadelphia, PA 19106 (215) 627-0303 (phone)

(215) 627-2551 (fax)

bdisipio@lavin-law.com (e-mail)

EXHIBIT A



Service of Process Transmittal

12/15/2021

CT Log Number 540741770

TO:

LGS SOP

APPLE INC. ONE APPLE PARK WAY

CUPERTINO, CA 95014-0642

RE:

Process Served in California

FOR:

Apple Inc. (Domestic State: CA)

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE OF ACTION:

Re: METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY // To: Apple Inc.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED:

Attachment(s), Writ

COURT/AGENCY:

Philadelphia County - Court of Common Pleas, PA

Case # 211200220

NATURE OF ACTION:

Property Damage Litigation - Please kindly issue a writ of summons in civil action in

the above-captioned matter

ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED:

C T Corporation System, GLENDALE, CA

DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE:

By Process Server on 12/15/2021 at 09:30

JURISDICTION SERVED:

California

APPEARANCE OR ANSWER DUE:

None Specified

ATTORNEY(S) / SENDER(S):

Richard A. Estacio

KOLB CLARE & ARNOLD, P.S.C. 848 E. Main Street, Suite 800 Epharata, PA 17522 610-492-7343

ACTION ITEMS:

CT has retained the current log, Retain Date: 12/15/2021, Expected Purge Date:

12/20/2021

Image SOP

Email Notification, Colleen Brown colleen_brown@apple.com

Email Notification, Heather Moser hmoser@apple.com

Email Notification, Tim O'Neil toneil@apple.com

Email Notification, Charstie Wheelock wheelock@apple.com

Email Notification, Erik Floyd efloyd@apple.com Email Notification, Ryan Moran rmoran@apple.com

Email Notification, Jennifer Brown jennifer_brown@apple.com



Service of Process Transmittal 12/15/2021

CT Log Number 540741770

TO:

LGS SOP

APPLE INC. ONE APPLE PARK WAY CUPERTINO, CA 95014-0642

RE: Process Served in California

FOR: Apple Inc. (Domestic State: CA)

Email Notification, Susan Guarino sguarino@apple.com Email Notification, Andrew Farthing afarthing@apple.com Email Notification, Scott Murray scott_murray@apple.com Email Notification, Lisa Olle olle@apple.com Email Notification, Victoria Nakaahiki victoria_nakaahiki@apple.com Email Notification, Maya Kumar maya_kumar@apple.com Email Notification, Jessica Hannah jessica_hannah@apple.com Email Notification, Kate Kaso-Howard kkasohoward@apple.com Email Notification, Stephanie Fine stephanie_fine@apple.com Email Notification, Amy Handler ahandler@apple.com Email Notification, Gabe Zeldin gzeldin@apple.com Email Notification, Benjamin Huh bhuh@apple.com Email Notification, Aaron Huang aaron_y_huang@apple.com Email Notification, James Wiley, Jr. jwileyjr@apple.com Email Notification, Jesse Koehler jesse_koehler@apple.com Email Notification, Andrew Stein andrew_stein@apple.com Email Notification, Matt Clements matthew_clements@apple.com Email Notification, Natalie Pous npous@apple.com Email Notification, Mara Selfridge mselfridge@apple.com Email Notification, Amy Walters amy_walters@apple.com Email Notification, Robin Goldberg robin_goldberg@apple.com Email Notification, Garrett Sakimae gsakimae@apple.com

Email Notification, LGS SOP lgsopssop@group.apple.com



Service of Process Transmittal

12/15/2021 CT Log Number 540741770

TO:

LGS SOP

APPLE INC. ONE APPLE PARK WAY CUPERTINO, CA 95014-0642

RE: **Process Served in California**

FOR: Apple Inc. (Domestic State: CA)

Email Notification, Audrey Stano a_stano@apple.com

Email Notification, Lloyd Keith II fkeith@apple.com

Email Notification, Colette Mayer colette.mayer@apple.com

Email Notification, Anita Bamshad abamshad@apple.com

Email Notification, Jack Pararas jpararas@apple.com

REGISTERED AGENT ADDRESS:

C T Corporation System 330 N BRAND BLVD STE 700 GLENDALE, CA 91203

877-564-7529

MajorAccountTeam2@wolterskluwer.com

The information contained in this Transmittal is provided by CT for quick reference only. It does not constitute a legal opinion, and should not otherwise be relied on, as to the nature of action, the amount of damages, the answer date, or any other information contained in the included documents. The recipient(s) of this form is responsible for reviewing and interpreting the included documents and taking appropriate action, including consulting with its legal and other advisors as necessary. CT disclaims all liability for the information contained in this form, including for any omissions or inaccuracies that may be contained therein.



PROCESS SERVER DELIVERY DETAILS

Date:

Wed, Dec 15, 2021

Server Name:

Arturo Ruiz

Entity Served	APPLE INC.
Case Number	n/a
Jurisdiction	CA



METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, 700 QUAKER LANE WARWICK, RI 02886 **CIVIL ACTION-LAW**

	CASE NO.
Plaintiff,	

ν.

APPLE, INC. ONE APPLE PARK WAY CUPERTINO, CA 95014

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant.

PRAECIPE FOR WRIT OF SUMMONS

TO THE PROTHONOTARY/CLERK OF COURT:

Please kindly issue a writ of summons in civil action in the above-captioned matter.

KOLB CLARE & ARNOLD, P.S.C.

Date: December 7, 2021

Richard A. Estacio, Esq. 848 E. Main Street, Suite 800

Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: (610) 492-7343 Email: <u>restacio@kcalegal.com</u> Supreme Court ID No.: 52793

Counsel for Plaintiff

Case ID: 211200220

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA TRIAL DIVISION-CIVIL

METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, 700 QUAKER LANE WARWICK, RI 02886 **CIVIL ACTION-LAW**

CASE NO.

Plaintiff,

v.

APPLE, INC. ONE APPLE PARK WAY CUPERTINO, CA 95014

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant.

WRIT OF SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

TO: APPLE, INC.

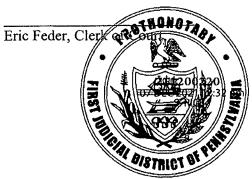
CT CORPORATION

330 North Brand Blvd., Suite 700

Glendale, CA 91203

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF HAS COMMENCED AN ACTION AGAINST YOU.

Date: _____



Case ID: 211200220

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number) **Trial Division** DECEMBER 2021 000220 Civil Cover Sheet E-Filling Number: 2112012996 PLAINTIFF'S NAME DEFENDANT'S NAME METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE APPLE, INC. COMPANY DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS ONE APPLE PARK WAY PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 700 QUAKER LANE WARWICK RI 02886 CUPERTINO CA 95014 PLAINTIFF'S NAME DEFENDANT'S NAME DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS DEFENDANTS NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS Complaint Petition Action ☐ Notice of Appeal 1 Writ of Summon Transfer From Other Jurisdictions COURT PROGRAMS AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY Arbitration Commerce ☐ Settlement \$50,000.00 or less X Jury Minor Court Appeal ☐ Minors ■ Non-Jury ■ W/D/Survival More than \$50,000.00 Statutory Appeals Other: CASE TYPE AND CODE 2P - PRODUCT LIABILITY STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION IS CASE SUBJECT TO RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER) FILED COORDINATION ORDER? **PRO PROTHY** YES NO DEC **07** 2021 S. RICE TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant: METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY Papers may be served at the address set forth below. NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY ADDRESS 848 E. MAIN STREET RICHARD A. ESTACIO SUITE 800 FAX NUMBER EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE NUMBER (610) 492-7343 none entered E-MAIL ADDRESS SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. restacio@kcalegal.com 52793 SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY DATE SUBMITTED RICHARD ESTACIO Tuesday, December 07, 2021, 12:32 pm

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY and Attested by the FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIAe of Judicial Records TRIAL DIVISION-CIVIL 18 MAR 2022 01:16 pm 6. IMPERATO

Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance:

Case No. 211200220

Company, (formerly Metropolitan Property:

and Casualty Insurance Company),

a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard,

700 Quaker Lane

Warwick, RI 02886

Plaintiff,

v.

Apple, Inc.

One Apple Parkway

Cupertino, CA 95014

Major Case

Jury Trial Demanded

STRUNGTON

NOTICE TO DEFEND

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint of for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

Philadelphia Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service 1101 Market St., 11th Floor Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) 238-6333

AVISO

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta ascentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte puede decider a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede perder dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted. Lleve esta demanda a un abogado immediatamente. Si no tiene abogado o si no tiene el dinero suficiente de pagar tal servicio. Vaya en persona o llame por telefono a la oficina cuya direccion se encuentra escrita abajo para averiguar donde se puede conseguir asistencia legal.

Asociacion De Licenciados De Filadelfia Servicio De Referencia E Informacion Legal 1101 Market St., 11th Piso Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) 238-6333

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA TRIAL DIVISION-CIVIL

Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance : Case No. 211200220

Company, (formerly Metropolitan Property:

and Casualty Insurance Company),
a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard,
700 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

:

Plaintiff, :

:

v.

Apple, Inc. :

One Apple Parkway : Major Case

Cupertino, CA 95014 : Jury Trial Demanded

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance Company [formerly Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company], a/s/o Christopher and Gretchen Howard (hereinafter "Farmers"), by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby submits his Complaint against Defendant, Apple Inc., and in support thereof avers as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Farmers is a corporation with a business address of 700 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886.
- 2. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant, Apple Inc. ("Apple" or "Defendant"), upon information and belief, was and is a California corporation with its principal place of business located at One Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA 95014.

3. Apple is in the business of designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programming and/or updating iPads, and component parts, including the Apple iPad (the "subject iPad") at issue in the instant case.

STATEMENT OF CASE

- 4. Plaintiff repeats the allegations set forth in the prior paragraphs of this Complaint as though they were set forth at length herein.
- 5. Prior to December 9, 2021, Defendant designed, manufactured, tested, inspected, assembled, marketed, sold, distributed, programmed, updated, and placed into the stream of commerce the subject iPad that was equipped with an electrical system, battery system containing lithium-ion batteries, as well as a software system that was capable of being remotely updated by Defendant even after the date of purchase.
- 6. Prior to December 9, 2021, Plaintiff's insureds, Christopher and Gretchen Howard, purchased the subject iPad.
- 7. Prior to December 9, 2021, the subject iPad had the original operating system in place, as well expected authorized updates downloaded onto the iPad.
- 8. Prior to December 9, 2021, Plaintiff's insured operated and used the subject iPad in a foreseeable, normal, ordinary, and intended manner.
- 9. On or about December 9, 2021, a fire erupted at the subject property as a direct result of an event internal to the electrical/battery system in the subject defective iPad. Alternatively, on or about December 9, 2021, a fire erupted at the subject premises as a direct result of one or more defects and/or malfunction in the subject iPad related to the electrical/battery system in the subject iPad.
 - 10. Prior to the fire, neither the subject iPad nor its electrical/battery system

been modified, changed, altered, misused or abused by Plaintiff' insureds in any way beyond what was authorized, provided for or anticipated by Defendant after it had placed the subject iPad into the stream of commerce.

- 11. The fire caused extensive damage to Plaintiff's insureds' real and personal property, and caused other consequential and incidental damages including clean-up costs, repair, and other associated expenses and hardship besides.
- 12. As a result of the aforementioned fire, Plaintiff's insureds sustained damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00.
- 13. Plaintiff paid the Howards for the loss described herein pursuant to the policy of insurance with policy number 184293265-0.

COUNT I- STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY

Farmers v. Apple. Inc.

- 14. Plaintiff repeats the allegations set forth in the prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if they were fully set forth at length herein.
- 15. Defendant is engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programming and/or updating iPads (which were equipped with an electrical system/battery system containing lithiumion batteries, as well as a software system that was capable of being remotely updated by Defendant even after the date of purchase).
- 16. Furthermore, Defendant specifically designed, manufactured, tested, inspected, assembled, marketed, sold, distributed, programmed, updated and placed into the stream of commerce the subject iPad at issue in this case, which was equipped with an

electrical system/battery system containing lithium-ion batteries, as well as a software system that was capable of being remotely updated by Defendant even after the date of purchase.

- 17. The subject iPad was not modified, changed, altered, misused, or abused after Defendant placed the product into the stream of commerce.
- 18. Defendant knew, and intended, that the subject iPad would be used by members of the general public, and furthermore knew of the specific uses, purposes and requirements for which said iPad would be utilized, including that Defendant intended to authorize, facilitate and provide necessary future updates for the operating system and software installed on the iPad that might affect the operation of the subject iPad and its electrical system/battery system.
- 19. Defendant designed, manufactured, tested, inspected, assembled, marketed, sold, distributed, programmed, updated, and placed into the stream of commerce the subject iPad in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition, which ultimately led to a catastrophic failure and/or mal function.
- 20. Defendant knew, or should have known, that the iPad would, and did, reach Plaintiff without substantial change in the condition in which it was originally selected and sold.
- 21. The subject iPad was not altered in any manner that caused or contributed to the fire after the product originally left the possession of Defendant (other than as authorized, recommended and/or facilitated by Defendant).
- 22. Plaintiff's insureds, Christopher and Gretchen Howard, operated the iPad in a foreseeable, normal, ordinary and intended manner at all relevant times.

- 23. The fire and its resulting property damage were caused by the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the subject iPad at the time it left the hands of Defendant, including design defects, manufacturing defects, programming defects, and improper warnings/instructions and/or malfunction.
- 24. The fire and its resulting property damage were caused by the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the product, including design defects, manufacturing defects, programming defects, and improper warnings/instructions and/or malfunction.
- 25. The aforementioned defects, and/or unreasonably dangerous conditions, existed at the time Defendant placed the subject iPad into the stream of commerce and were foreseeable then; as well as after, when Defendant may have facilitated the updating of the subject iPad's operating system and software.
- 26. The subject iPad was dangerous to an extent beyond that which would be contemplated by the ordinary consumer who purchases it, with the ordinary knowledge common to the community of its characteristics.
- 27. The probability of injury times the gravity of injury under the design of the subject iPad was and is more than the cost of an alternative reasonable design plus the diminished utility resulting from modifying the design.
- 28. Common experience teaches that the fire would not have occurred in the subject iPad in the absence of such a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition.
- 29. The foreseeable risks associated with the design of the subject iPad exceed all benefits.
- 30. The defective and unreasonably dangerous conditions of the subject iPad were direct and proximate causes of the damages sustained by Plaintiff.

- 31. The defective and unreasonably dangerous conditions of the subject iPad proximately caused a fire to occur at the subject property, which resulted in damages to Plaintiff; thus, Defendant is strictly under Section 402A of the Restatement (2d) of Torts, and Pennsylvania's applicable case law.
- 32. The fire that occurred in the subject product and the subsequent damage to real and personal property, was caused by and resulted from the negligent, carelessness, reckless and grossly negligent acts and/or omissions of Apple, acting by and through its respective agents, servants and/or employees in the course and scope of their employment, through which Defendant is strictly liable under Section 402A of the Restatement (2d) of Torts, and Pennsylvania's applicable case law, by reason of:
 - a) designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, testing, distributing and/or marketing a defective product, the subject iPad, which Apple knew or should have reasonably known would subject Plaintiff to an unreasonable risk of harm;
 - b) designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, testing, distributing and/or marketing a defective product, the subject iPad, which Apple knew or should have reasonably known would endanger the real and personal property of Plaintiff;
 - c) failing to select safe and adequate components of the subject iPad;
 - d) failing to properly and adequately warn of the limitations of the subject iPad;
 - e) failing to provide adequate and sufficient warnings with respect to the subject iPad which thereby rendered the subject iPad defective and unreasonably dangerous;
 - f) failing to distribute and/or supply a product that was safe of its reasonably foreseeable use and intended purpose;
 - g) designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, testing, distributing and/or marketing a defective product, the subject iPad, that was not reasonably fit,

suitable or safe for its intended purpose;

- h) failing to properly test and inspect the subject iPad at the time it left the control of Defendant;
- i) failing to manufacture, assemble and/or design the subject iPad in a manner sufficient to prevent fire;
- j) failing to comply with all local, state and federal codes, regulations, ordinances, standards, recommendations and/or requirements;
- k) selling, distributing and/or marketing a defective iPad;
- 1) otherwise failing to act reasonably under the circumstances; and failing to identify and design out foreseeable use hazards and failure hazards in general.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Apple's aforementioned acts and/or omissions for which Apple is strictly liable, the Plaintiff sustained and incurred damage to his/their real and personal property, and caused other consequential and incidental damages including clean-up costs, repair, and other associated expenses in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00.
- 34. For these reasons, Defendant is strictly liable to Plaintiff as a result of the aforementioned fire wherein Plaintiffs sustained damages in an amount well in excess \$50,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Farmers respectfully requests judgment against Defendant, Apple Inc., in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, plus costs incident to this suit, delay damages, and for such other relief as this Honorable Court shall deem appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT II- NEGLIGENCE

Farmers v. Apple, Inc.

35. Plaintiff repeats the allegations set forth in the prior paragraphs of this Complaint

as if they were fully set forth at length herein.

- 36. Defendant owed a duty of reasonable care to purchasers/users/consumers and the like with regard to the designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programming, updating, and placing into the stream of commerce the subject iPad; and breached said duty.
- 37. Defendant knew, and intended, that the subject iPad would be used by members of the general public/consumers and furthermore knew of the specific uses, purposes and requirements for which said product would be utilized, including that Defendant intended to authorize, facilitate and provide necessary future updates for the operating system and software installed on the iPad would negatively affect the operation of the subject iPad and its battery system.
- 38. When the subject iPad was distributed and sold, Defendant was aware that the subject iPad could be updated remotely with authorized software and operating system updates, and it is likely that Defendant intended to facilitate such updates and, in fact, did facilitate such programming updates.
- 39. The aforementioned damages were the direct and proximate result of the negligence and careless conduct and/or acts or omissions of Defendant, by and through its employees, agents, technicians, vendors, subcontractors, suppliers and/or servants, more specifically failing to exercise reasonable care described as follows:
 - a) carelessly and negligently failing to design, manufacture, test, inspect, assemble, market, sell, distribute, program, update and/or place into the stream of commerce a properly functioning and defect-free iPad, which after reasonable and foreseeable use malfunctioned and/or catastrophically failed;
 - b) carelessly and negligently failing to properly design, manufacture, test, inspect, assemble, market, sell, distribute, program, update and/or place into the stream of commerce the subject iPad free from detects, including but not

limited to batteries and an electrical system/battery system capable of functioning in a safe and appropriate manner - originally, as well as after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;

- c) carelessly and negligently failing to properly ensure that the iPad, including its component parts, were in a safe condition, and free of all material defects, including but not limited to batteries and an electrical system/battery system capable of functioning in a safe and appropriate manner originally, as well as after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- d) carelessly and negligently designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programing, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce the subject iPad when it knew, or should have known, that the product was unsafe and unfit for its intended use, including but not limited to batteries and an electrical system/battery that was unsafe and unfit originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- e) carelessly and negligently designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programing, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce the subject iPad when Defendant knew, or should have known, that the product would be inadequate for the reasons for which it was purchased, originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- f) carelessly and negligently designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programing, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce the subject iPad that had unreasonably dangerous electrical system/battery components (and/or programming as to the use of such components) that caused the product to catastrophically fail and/or malfunction, originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- g) carelessly and negligently designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programing, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce the subject iPad that had unreasonably dangerous electrical system/battery components (and/or programming as to the use of such components) that caused the product to catastrophically fail and/or malfunction, originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- h) carelessly and negligently designing, manufacturing, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programing, updating and/or

- placing into the stream of commerce a dangerous and detective iPad that Defendant knew, or reasonably should have known, exposed users to an unreasonable risk of harm, originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- carelessly and negligently failing to properly and adequately design, manufacture, test, inspect, assemble, market, sell, distribute, program and/or update the subject iPad prior to introducing the product into the stream of commerce and/or after facilitating authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad and altering the functioning of the iPad, including but not limited to the electrical system/battery system;
- j) carelessly and negligently failing to provide adequate and sufficient warnings and instructions with respect to the product, which rendered it defective and unreasonably dangerous, originally and after Defendant may have facilitated authorized updates to the operating system and software of the subject iPad;
- k) carelessly and negligently authorizing, recommending, programming and facilitating updates to the operating system and software so as to allow them to be downloaded to the subject iPad which altered the functioning of the iPad, including but not limited to the electrical system/battery system;
- carelessly and negligently authorizing, recommending, programming and facilitating updates to the operating system and software that Defendant knew, or should have known, rendered the product unsafe and unfit for its intended use;
- m) carelessly and negligently authorizing, recommending, programming and facilitating updates to the operating system and software that Defendant knew, or should have known, were not free from defects and were not compatible with the iPad and/or battery system already installed on the subject iPad; and/or
- n) carelessly and negligently failing to provide adequate and sufficient warnings and instructions with respect to the authorized updates to the operating system and software and the impact on the subject iPad and the electrical system/battery system, which rendered it defective and unreasonably dangerous at the time of sale.
- 40. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's aforementioned negligent and careless actions and/or omissions, the aforementioned fire occurred and Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for the damages sustained.

41. For these reasons, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff as a result of the aforementioned fire, for which Plaintiff sustained damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Farmers respect fully requests judgment against Defendant, Apple Inc., in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, plus costs incident to this suit, delay damages, and for such other relief as this Honorable Court shall deem appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT III - BREACH OF EXPRESS and/or IMPLIED WARRANTIES Farmers v. Apple, Inc.

- 42. Plaintiff repeats the allegations set forth in the prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if they were set forth at length herein.
- 43. The design, manufacture, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programming, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce of the subject iPad was not performed in a professional, competent, and workmanlike manner for the reasons set forth herein, and as such posed a hazard to Plaintiff and his property.
- 44. In conjunction with the design, manufacture, testing, inspecting, assembling, marketing, selling, distributing, programming, updating and/or placing into the stream of commerce of the subject iPad, Apple expressly and impliedly warranted that the product would be free from defects and safe to use for its intended purpose. Plaintiff, relied upon the warranties set forth by Apple to his detriment.
 - 45. Apple breached these warranties because the subject iPad was not free of

defects, was not of merchantable quality, and was not fit for the purposes for which it was intended.

- 46. Plaintiff has performed all conditions precedent to recover based upon such breaches.
- 47. Plaintiff's damages occurred as a direct result of Apple's breach of its implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability as set out in 13 Pa. C.S.A. §2315 and §2314(c), and as a result of Apple's breach of its expressed/implied warranties in violation of 13 Pa. C.S.A §2313, as well as the express and implied warranties set forth in the warranties included at the time of purchase of the product, and/or any time prior or subsequent thereto.
- 48. Plaintiff, a consumer used the subject iPad in a foreseeable and ordinary manner, of which Defendant should have been aware, and for which Defendant's expertise was relied upon; yet Plaintiff sustained the damages described herein due to the defects, breaches and negligence described above.
- 49. As a direct and proximate result of Apple's aforementioned warranty breaches (express and/or implied), for which Apple is liable, the Plaintiff sustained and incurred damage to his/their real and personal property, and caused other consequential and incidental damages including clean-up costs, repair, and other associated expenses in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Farmers respectfully requests judgment against Defendant, Apple Inc., in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, plus costs incident to this suit, delay damages, and for such other relief as this Honorable Court shall deem appropriate under the circumstances.

KOLB CLARE & ARNOLD, P.S.C.

Date: March 18, 2022

Richard A. Estacio, Esq. 848 E. Main Street, Suite 800

imo.mo

Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: (610) 492-7343 Email: <u>restacio@kcalegal.com</u> Supreme Court ID No.: 52793

Counsel for Plaintiff Farmers Insurance

VERIFICATION

I, Christopher Howard, General Adjuster with Farmers Property & Casualty Insurance Co. hereby states that I am familiar with the underlying facts of this action, verify that the averments set forth in the foregoing pleading are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief. The undersigned understands that the statements therein made are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

03/18/2022

Date

[insert name]

Christopher M Howard, Sr. Claims Adjuster

Ta MI

Case 2:22-cv-01349 Document 1 Filed 04/07/22 Page 30 of 40

17 MAR 2022 12:59 pm

IN THE COUR CIVIL Administration FIRST BUCKEL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

Farmers Insurance (formerly Metropolitan), a/s/o

Christopher and Gretchen Howard

v. : CASE NO. 211200220

Apple, Inc. : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

Filing party: Farmers Insurance (formerly Metropolitan) By: Richard A. Estacio, Sr. , 1						
Cou	unsel's address and telephone number (IMPORTANT) 848 E. Main St., Suite 800, Ephrata, PA 17522 484-844-9130					
	Part A (to be completed in personal injury cases)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
1.	Date of accident or occurrence:					
	l(a). Age of Plaintiff(s):	and seed "Americal State proposed and a company				
2.	Most serious injuries sustained:					
3.	Is there any permanent injury claimed?					
	If yes, indicate the type of permanent injury:					
4.	Dates of medical treatment:					
	Is medical treatment continuing?					
6.	Has there been an inpatient hospitalization?					

This form shall be presented to the Case Manager and copies served upon all parties at the Case Management Conference by counsel prepared to discuss its contents.

7.	Has there been any surgery?		☐ Yes	□ No
	If yes, indicate the type of surgery:		No. Production delication is a No. or administration of the contract of the co	
3.	Approximate medical bills to date: \$		The state of the s	
	Approximate medical bills recoverable in	this case: \$		
9.	Are there any existing liens (Workers Co	mpensation, DPW, Me	edical, etc.)?	☐ Yes ☐ N
	If yes, what type and approximate amoun	t?		
0.	Time lost from work:		NVA Common and Commonwealthroad Common Commonwealth Common Commonwealthroad Common Commonwealthroad Commonwe	
1.	Approximate past lost wages:	The following state of the stat		
2.	Is there a claim for future lost earning cap	pacity?	☐ Yes	□ No
	If yes, approximate future lost earning ca	pacity:	The second secon	The state of the s
3,	Are there any related cases or claims pend	ding?	☐ Yes	□ No
	If so, list caption(s) or other appropriate			
4.	Do you anticipate joining additional parti		☐ Yes	□ No
5.	Plaintiff's factual position as to liability:			
6.				
•				
7.	Defense position as to causation of injurie	es alleged:		
3.	Identify all applicable insurance coverage	: :		
	Defendant	Insurance Carri	er	Coverage Limit.
	Are there issues as to the applicability of the above insurance coverage:		☐ Yes	□ No
9.	Demand: \$	Offer: \$	Seminore Million ()	Acceptance of the second secon

01-105 (Rev. 10/99) (2)

Part B (to be completed in all cases other than personal injury)

1.	Date of contract of transaction: December 9, 2	2020		MATTER AND			
2.	Is there a writing?		Yes	☐ No			
	If yes, is there an allegation that the writing not contain the entire agreement of the part		Yes	□No			
3.	Is the Uniform Commercial Code applicabl	e to this case?	Yes	☐ No			
4.	The iPad purchased from Defendant Apple, Inc. contractions	nature of the conduct alleged as giving rise to the cause of action: sed from Defendant Apple, Inc. contained an electrical/battery system defect which resulted in substantial					
	fire and smoke damage to the insureds' home and its						
5.	State the amount of damages claimed by Plaintiff:						
	(b) Consequential						
	(c) Other (specify)			and the second s			
6.	Defense position as to alleged nature of conductional Liability denied at this time.	uct giving rise to cause of ac					
7.	If there is a counterclaim, state the amount	of damages sought:					
	(a) Direct NA			10 A			
	(b) Consequential						
	(c) Other (specify)	participandes de Arthologico (° 1717 - 1770) Malayanganga, a carrier game and de Arthologico (° 1770)	- 1000 Marine 1964				
8.	Identify all applicable insurance coverage:						
	Defendant	Insurance Carrier		Coverage Limits			
	See Defendant's conference memorandum						
9.	Demand: \$ 354,588.93	Offer: \$ None a	ıt this	time			

17 MAR 2022 02:10 pm

Civil Administration

B. KOCH

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

			•			
		N PROPERTY AND URANCE COMPA	•	COURT OF (COMMON PLEA	AS
v.		Plaintiff,	:		Y OF PHILADELPHIA RIAL DIVISION	
AP	PLE, INC.	Defendant.		DOCKET NO	DOCKET NO.: 2112-000220	
			: :			
	CASE	MANAGEME	NT CONFE	DENCE ME	EMODAND	ΙΙΜ
	CASE	MANAGEME	ANT CONFE	RENCE WII	MORAND	<u>UIVI</u>
Filir	ng party:. <u>Apple</u>	Inc. i/s/h/a Apple,	Inc. ("Apple")	By: Basil A.	DiSipio, Esquire	
		and telephone numb ce Mall West, Suite			5) 627-0303	
			PART B	3		
	(1	to be completed i	n all cases oth	er than person	al injury)	
1.	Date of contra	act of transaction:	N/A.			
2.	Is there a writ	ing?			□ Yes	X No
		e an allegation that t e entire agreement o			□ Yes	□ No
3.	Is the Uniforn	n Commercial Code	applicable to this	s case?	□ Yes	X No
4.		nature of the conductor Complaint has bee				property
	damage" actio	on. Apple has no fu	rther information	regarding this ma	atter.	
		M-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-				

(a) Direct Unknown; See Plaintiff's Case Management Conference Memorandum. Apple

denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief from Apple.

(b)) Consequential		Gee Plaintiff's Case Managemen s that Plaintiff is entitled to relie		
(c)	Other (specify)		See Plaintiff's Case Manageme es that Plaintiff is entitled to rel		
co	unterclaim:	C	are of conduct giving rise to cau		
da	mage" action. App	le has no furt	ther information regarding this i	natter. A	pple denies liability
or	that Plaintiff is ent	itled to any re	elief from Apple.		

	- makkANV				
 7. If	there is a counteral	aim state the	amount of damages sought:		
(a) Direct <u>N/A.</u>				
(b) Consequential	N/A.			
(c) Other (specify)	N/A.			
3. Id	entify all applicable	e insurance co	overage:		
	Defendant		Insurance Carrier		Coverage Limits
Apple	•		Apple is self-insured for the		N/A
			purposes of this lawsuit.		
). D		ff has not a demand		Offer:	\$ N/A.

Exhibit B

LAVIN, CEDRONE, GRAVER, BOYD & DISIPIO

Counsel for Defendant, Apple Inc.

Basil A. DiSipio, Esquire / ID No. 28212 190 N. Independence Mall West, Suite 500

6th & Race Streets Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 627-0303 / Fax: (215) 627-2551

bdisipio@lavin-law.com

		NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF	
APPLE, INC.	Defendant.	DOCKET NO.: 2112-00220	
V.	Plaintiff,	COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION	
METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY		COURT OF COMMON PLEAS	

TO: PLAINTIFF AND PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, RICHARD A. ESTACIO, ESQUIRE, 848 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 800, EPHRATA, PA 17522

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Apple Inc. has filed a Notice of Removal in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania removing the civil action entitled *Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company v. Apple, Inc.*, from the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that attached hereto is a copy of said Notice of Removal.

Dated: April 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Basil A. Disipio, Esquire

Paies A. D. Syjo

Attorneys for Defendant, Apple Inc.

190 North Independence Mall West 6th & Race

Streets, Suite 500

Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 627-0303 (phone)

(215) 627-2551 (fax)

bdisipio@lavin-law.com (e-mail)

LAVIN, CEDRONE, GRAVER, BOYD & DISIPIO

Basil A. DiSipio, Esquire / ID No. 28212 190 N. Independence Mall West, Suite 500

6th & Race Streets

Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 627-0303 / Fax: (215) 627-2551

bdisipio@lavin-law.com

METROPOLITAN PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Counsel for Defendant, Apple Inc.

Plaintiff,

COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA

v.

CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

APPLE, INC.

DOCKET NO.: 2112-00220

Defendant.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 7, 2022, the within Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal was electronically filed with the Court and served on counsel below via e-mail.

Richard A. Estacio, Esquire 848 E. Main Street, Suite 800 Ephrata, PA 17522 (610) 492-7343 restacio@kcalegal.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

Respectfully submitted,

Basil A. DiSipio, Esquire

Baies A. D. Syjo

Attorneys for Defendant Apple Inc.

190 North Independence Mall West 6th & Race

Streets, Suite 500

Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 627-0303 (phone) /(215) 627-2551 (fax)

bdisipio@lavin-law.com (e-mail)

2312912v1

EXHIBIT C



Jennifer R. Fantoni, Esq. Litigation Manager 9390 Bunsen Parkway Louisville, Kentucky 40220 Telephone: (502) 214-6123 Facsimile: (855) 404-9220 jfantoni@equian.com

January 6, 2020

Apple
ATTN: Legal Department
1 Apple Park Way
Cuppertino, CA 95014

Re: Our Client: Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company

Our Named Insured: Christopher Howard

Loss Location: 6802 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, PA

Date of Loss: December 9, 2019
Our File Number: TP 6097115-9625142

Your Claim Number: 100977366959

NOTICE OF JOINT SCENE EXAMINATION YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IS REQUIRED

Dear Sir or Madam:

Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company ("Met P&C"), as subrogee of Christopher Howard, has a potential subrogation claim against your company for damages related to a fire loss that occurred on December 9, 2019 at 6802 Henry Avenue in Philadelphia, PA. Upon information and belief, the fire appears to have originated in an Apple iPad.

The physical evidence relevant to this potential subrogation claim has been preserved without substantial change or modification since the date of the fire. A joint scene examination has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 with a start time of 9:00 a.m. Michael Daily of Valentine & Associates is handling the scene investigation for Met P&C; he can be reached at (856) 784-6077 or at mdaily@valentineassoc.com. By service of this Notice of Joint Scene Examination, you have received formal notice of the pending joint inspection. If you refuse or otherwise fail to attend, or fail to contact my office to discuss any scheduling conflicts, you will waive any rights regarding the inspection.

Please contact our office immediately to confirm your attendance at the joint scene examination and to discuss this matter generally. Please also note that the scene is being held pending this examination and therefore time is of the essence. I can be reached directly at (502) 214-6123 or at jfantoni@equian.com. Alternately, if you have insurance that would cover this loss, please provide this correspondence to your insurance carrier and ask that they contact me. In either event, thank you in advance for giving this matter your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Lorrige R. Fantoni Jennifer R. Fantoni, Esq.